

Catechesis Minute

Sin

When we look at the world, we often wonder how it got so bad. The Bible has the answer. Today, as we look at sin, we focus on the question in the **Explanation**, “What has original sin done to human nature?” and consider these passages of Scripture:

Ephesians 2:3 – *[We] were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

This speaks to the scope of original sin. Its effect reaches the whole world. As Paul says in **Romans 3:23**, *ALL have sinned*. No one is untouched by original sin. Every human being born in this world is born in original sin. There is no escaping it. The only human to not be contaminated with sin is Jesus, by virtue of His Incarnation, being conceived by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *The natural person does not accept the things of the spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

Why don't people see the revelation of God we see in nature? Why don't they “get it” when it comes to obvious issues like abortion and homosexuality? Original sin means we are blind and dead to spiritual things, or things of God until the Spirit works faith in us. We are enemies of God in original sin.

Matthew 7:17 – *Every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.*

Of course, being spiritually dead means that this fallen nature causes us to commit actual sins. A diseased tree can't help but bear bad fruit.

So, the result of original sin is that everyone, no exceptions, is guilty before God. We are all condemned to eternal death. This sin means that our human nature is fallen; we are blind to the things of the Spirit, dead in our sin, and enemies with God. And because of original sin and that fallen nature, we live in sin, committing actual sins. Without Jesus Christ, we are hopeless and helpless. But we also know how the world got the way it is. And we know that the only help for the world is Jesus.